



Throwing away the ladder

Wittgenstein's philosophy and scholarly communication

Engaging. Fun. **#noboringporfavor**



#noworryporfavor

“If people never did silly things nothing intelligent would ever get done.”¹

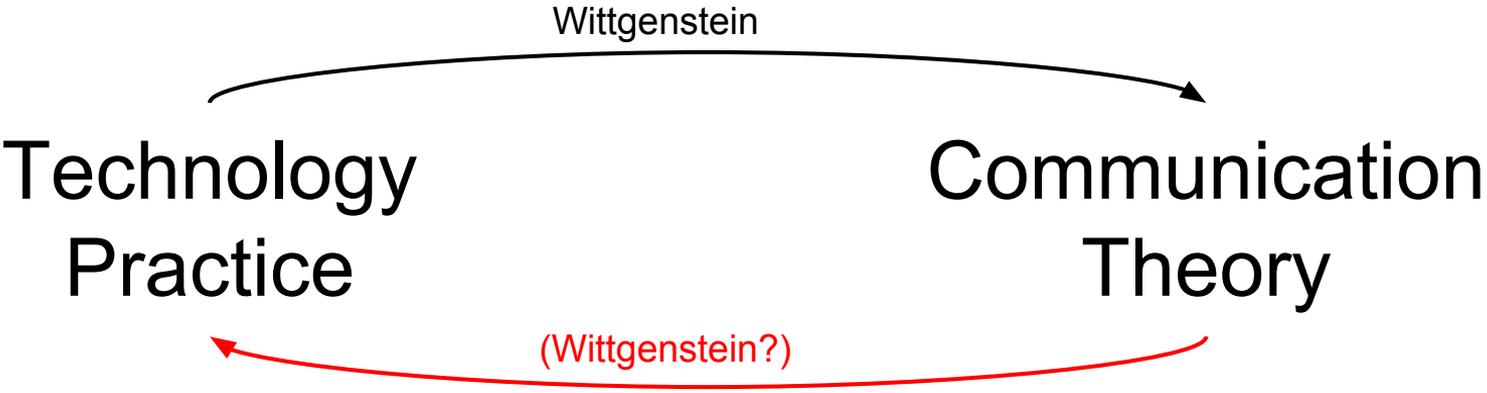
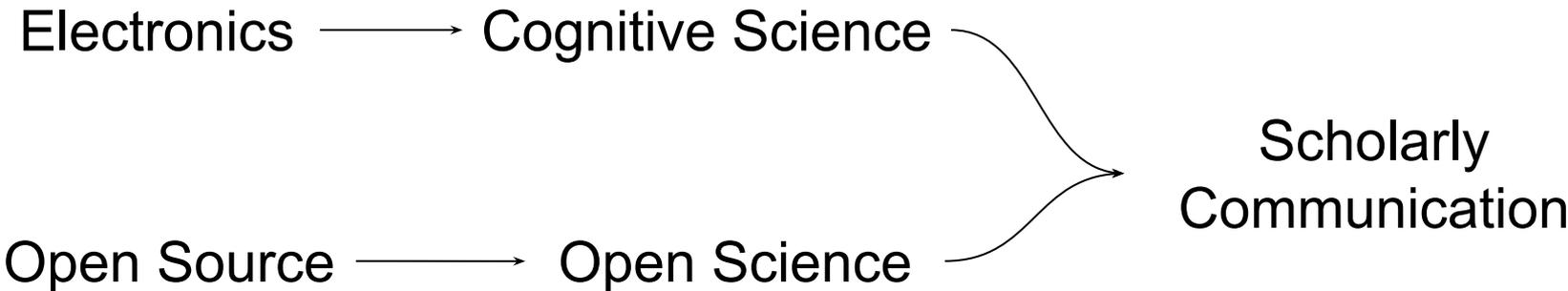
“A serious and good philosophical work could be written consisting entirely of jokes.”²

¹ <http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/26959.html>

² Norman Malcolm, *Ludwig Wittgenstein: A Memoir*

Outline

1. Why philosophy? Why Wittgenstein?
2. About Wittgenstein
3. Wittgenstein's philosophy
 - a. Philosophy as therapy
 - b. Language Games
4. Engagement at the center of scholarship
5. Outro



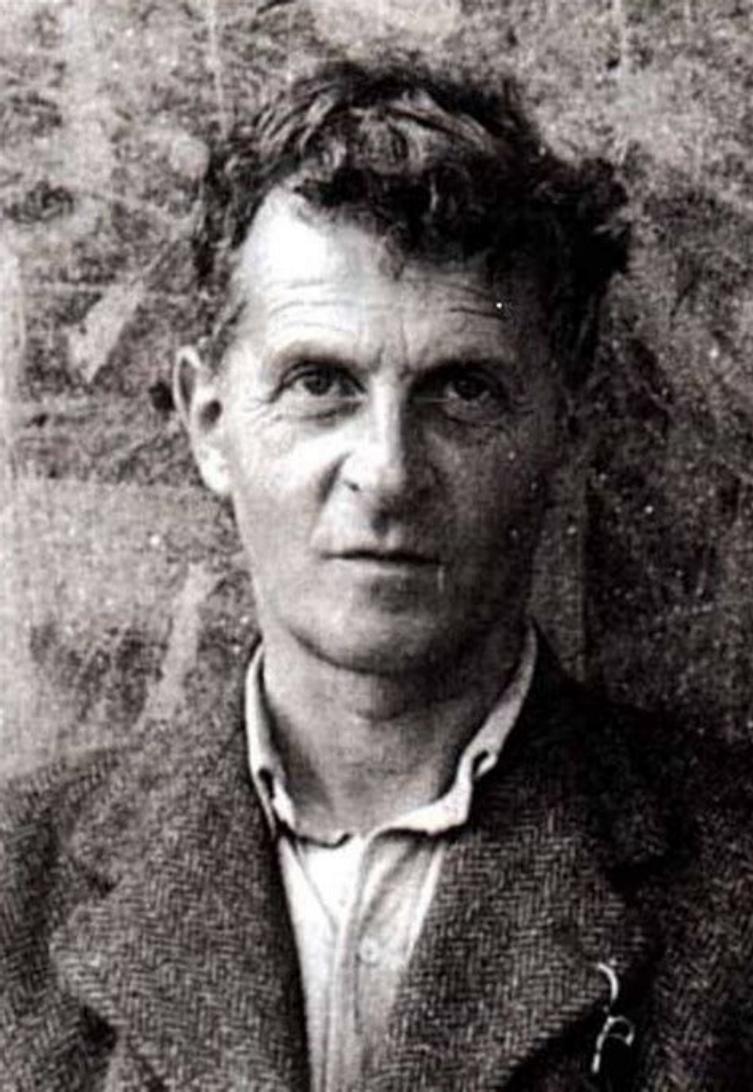
But why Wittgenstein and what about engagement?

- People enter engagements
- Artists and speakers need engagements
- Countries engage in war

Researchers and scholars

- engage with each other's *ideas* in the writing process
- are supposed to be engaging and have *societal impact*
- engage with *the public*

Interaction



About Wittgenstein

- Considered the most influential analytic philosopher of the 20th century
- The nature of language and limits of meaning
- Two phases
 - Early Wittgenstein
 - Late Wittgenstein

Witty Fact #1

- Officially only published 1 edited book
 - *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (TLP)
- Second book was published posthumously
 - *Philosophical Investigations* (PI)
- publish or perish...

- Late Wittgenstein (*Philosophical Investigations*)

Wittgenstein's philosophy

1. Philosophy as Therapy

Philosophy should only serve to resolve the confusions that our misconceptions of language cause

2. Language Games

'Meaning is use' - the meaning of concepts is socially determined

(1) Philosophy as Therapy

- Similar to ideas proposed by Plato and Sextus Empiricus
- *Medicine to no longer require medicine*
- *Science to no longer require science*
- ***Philosophy to no longer require philosophy***







LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN
**TRACTATUS
LOGICO-
PHILOSOPHICUS**



for-a | tumblr



LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN

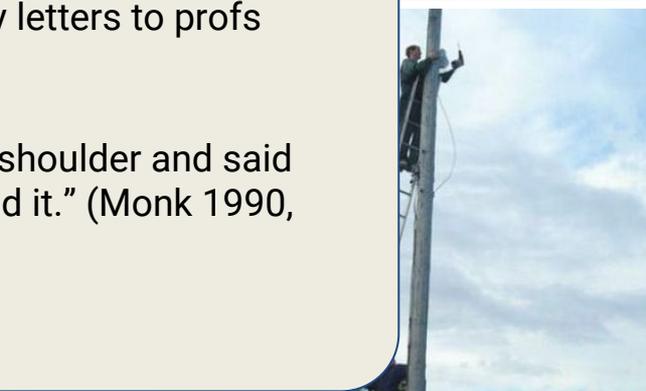
TRACTATUS

Witty Fact #2

- Prof came to take notes while he dictated his thoughts on logic
 - Never received his BA because he didn't want to write an introduction + conclusion and wrote sassy letters to profs
- Defended the Tractatus as his PhD thesis
 - At the end, clapped the committee on the shoulder and said "Don't worry, I know you'll never understand it." (Monk 1990, p. 29.)
- Did not care about proper citing



for-a | tumb





W

for-a | tumb



In connection with this bibliography, the following points should be noted:

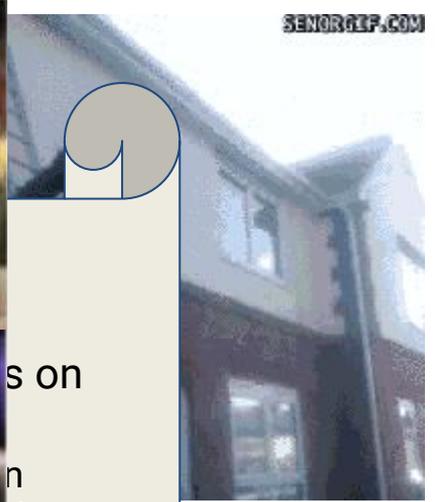
- 1) It makes no pretense to be exhaustive. I have listed only the works I have actually used and cited in the text. And since books are made to be read and not consulted, I have rejected the scholarly tradition of specifying pages in footnotes.
- 2) I have omitted systematically most works predating 1940. They are readily available elsewhere.
- 3) I have also omitted literary works on technique, such as those of Duhamel, Huxley, Ernst Jünger, Orwell, Cheorgiu, and others.
- 4) I have not inserted references relating to propaganda and psychological techniques, since these will be found in my forthcoming work on propaganda.

How far my efforts agree with those of other philosophers I will not decide. Indeed what I have here written makes no claim to novelty in points of detail; and therefore I give no sources, because it is indifferent to me whether what I have thought has already been thought before me by another.

time of divine Providence, which has in

¹ This was once revealed to me in a dream.

² See R. Otto, *Das Heilige*. He has some i



s on
n
fs
said
990,

(2) Language Games

Water!

- One of the core concepts of the *Philosophical Investigations*
- **Language as an extension of activity and behaviour**
- Wittgenstein uses increasingly complex examples "consisting of language and the actions into which it is woven" (PI §7)
- Closely related to the idea of *family resemblances*

(2) Language Games

- One of the conditions
- **Language as**
- Wittgenstein's philosophy of language and
- Closely related to the idea of *family resemblances*



(2) Language Games

- Wittgenstein rejects the idea of a common idea, essence, meaning hidden in a word. Instead we follow it's uses through “a complicated network of similarities overlapping and criss-crossing” (PI §66)
- Counterintuitive to the idea of *thinking* in our heads and ideas communicated through *scholarly communications* to other heads and brain
- **‘Meaning is use’**

(2) Language Games

Witty Fact #3

- Wittgenstein
me
“a
cri
 - Completed the Tractatus
co
he
 - ‘Meaning is use’
- The original mic drop
 - Finished the Tractatus proclaiming that he had solved all the problems of philosophy
 - Britain’s most prominent philosopher at time went on to become a primary school teacher in Trattenbach
 - other jobs: gardener, architect, research assistant
- ough
- ideas
- r

Wittgenstein's philosophy

1. Philosophy as Therapy

Philosophy should only serve to resolve the confusions that our misconceptions of language cause

2. Language Games

'Meaning is use' - the meaning of concepts is socially determined

Engagement & Scholarly Communication

1. Philosophy as Therapy
2. Language Games

Engagement & Scholarly Communication

1. Philosophy as Therapy

“To show the fly the way out of the bottle” (PI) - resolve the confusions around the meaning of concepts and citations

2. Language Games

Scholarly communication is just another language game. We have language games for psychology, the humanities, astrophysics, etc.

Engagement & Scholarly Communication

Cronin (2016) recounts several metaphors used for citational behaviour:

- scholarly bricks
- signposts left behind
- applause
- *frozen footprints*

“[W]e should instead pay more attention to what is actually being said, by whom, to whom, in what ways, and when.” (Cronin, 2016, p.18)

Engagement & Scholarly Communication

from: “citations as signs, or semiotic devices, is a constant thread in the theories of citation” (Sugimoto, 2016, p.4)

to: “citations as moves in the language game of science”

from: “citation as a slow, asynchronous conversation of texts” (Czarniawska-Joerges, 1997, p.63)

to: “citation as a ~~slow, asynchronous conversation of texts~~”

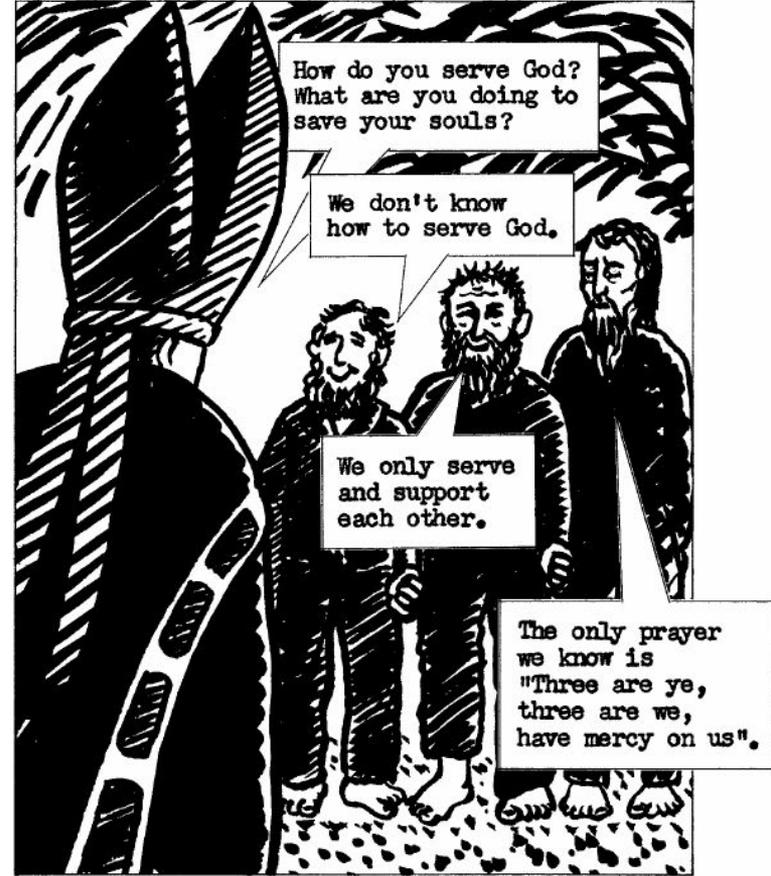
But how?

Engagement & Scholarly Communication

Technology is the driver of a scholarly communication through a Wittgensteinian lense

- ORCID, CrossRef, OpenCitations
- Preprints, open peer review, PREreview
- unpaywall, R2R
- Atomizing research, microPubs, nanoPubs
- “From Traditional Citation Practice to Direct Communication” (Parinov and Antinova, 2018)

Modern technology is not changing the nature of scholarly communication, but simply exposing its true face.







Vielen Dank!

Let's play questions

References

Coeckelbergh, M. (2017). Technology games: Using Wittgenstein for understanding and evaluating technology. *Science and engineering ethics*, 1-17.

Cronin, B. (2016). The Incessant chattering of texts. *Theories of informetrics and scholarly communication. A Festschrift in Honor of Blaise Cronin*, 13-19.

Czarniawska, B. (Ed.). (1997). *A narrative approach to organization studies* (Vol. 43). Sage Publications.

Antonova, V., & Parinov, S. (2018). Global Scholarly Collaboration: from Traditional Citation Practice to Direct Communication. *ELectronic PUBLISHing*.

Wittgenstein, L. (2009). *Philosophical investigations*. John Wiley & Sons.